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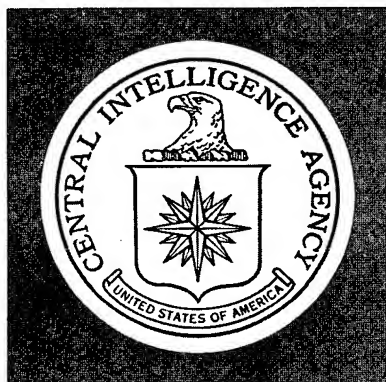
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DIRECTORATE OF
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MEMORANDUM

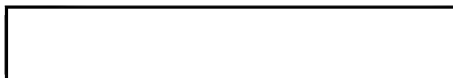
The Situation in Vietnam

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Information as of 1600
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HIGHLIGHTS

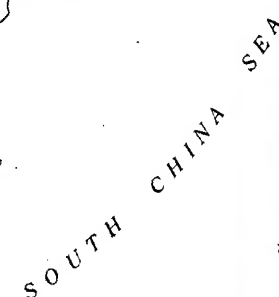
Heavy fighting is reported in both the Western Highlands and north of Saigon in Binh Long Province.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: US Army troops suffered 75 casualties in a two-and-a-half hour encounter near Dak To in Kontum Province on 10 July (Paras. 1-3). A total of 112 enemy soldiers were killed by South Vietnamese soldiers defending an outpost in Binh Long Province (Paras. 4-5).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.



I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Two companies of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade encountered an estimated battalion-size Communist force late on 10 July while on patrol about 10 miles southwest of Dak To in the highlands of Kontum Province. The enemy force was in well-fortified positions and struck with mortars as well as heavy automatic weapons fire. The American force was part of the five-battalion Operation GREELEY which has been sweeping western Kontum Province since 16 June in search of the nearly 3,000 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong troops operating in the area.

2. Following a sharp two and a half hour battle, the enemy was forced to withdraw--possibly to sanctuary in Cambodia--leaving at least nine bodies behind. American losses were 26 killed and 49 wounded. The well-disciplined enemy unit, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, was probably a subordinate of the 1,500-man NVA 24th Regiment which was identified as being involved in a battle with US troops on 23-24 June in the same general vicinity.

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Attack in Binh Long Province

4. Early on 11 July a South Vietnamese Army battalion supported by allied artillery, AC-47 gunships, and tactical air strikes beat back a heavy enemy assault against a South Vietnamese outpost in Binh Long Province 60 miles north of Saigon. A total of 112 Communist soldiers were reported killed and numerous weapons were captured in the action. Government forces lost 13 killed and 54 wounded.

5. A press release claimed that a North Vietnamese Army captain captured in the battle identified the attacking force as units of the 141st Regiment, NVA 7th Division.

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